

News

ARIZONA Department of Revenue

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ARIZONA INCOME TAX E-FILING UP 14%

The Arizona Department of Revenue (DOR) reports that e-filing of Arizona income tax returns has increased by 14% over last year at the same time. 64% of the state income tax returns filed so far this year have been e-filed.

The growth of e-filing has helped in getting income tax refunds out to anxious taxpayers faster than ever before. 5% more refunds have been issued than at the same time last year. Some people have reported getting refunds in as few as 3 days with direct deposit. E-filers receive their refunds faster than traditional paper returns, with the added piece of mind that comes with the confirmation from both the IRS and DOR that their returns were received.

E-filing is advantageous for taxpayers who are not expecting a refund also. They get the filing confirmation, and they can use the "file now, pay later" option by using Electronic Funds Withdrawal (direct debit). If a balance is due on the e-filed return, the direct debit option allows the taxpayer to file today and specify a future

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payment date up to and including April 15. On the specified date, the funds are transferred from the taxpayer's bank account directly to the Department of Revenue. Or, taxpayers can choose to e-file now and mail a check later if they prefer.

DOR Director Elliott Hibbs said, "It's not too late to e-file and beat the rush. Taxpayers waiting until the last minute to file their returns will experience longer waits for their refunds. Of course, returns using e-file will still see faster turnaround times than paper filers."

The agency encourages everyone to e-file in the coming weeks. Historically, over one third of all taxpayers file in the two weeks prior to the April 15 filing deadline. Paper filers expecting a refund will wait up to 8 weeks for that refund.

Taxpayers have several resources for e-file. They can ask their tax preparer to do it for them, prepare and e-file the return using the internet, or purchase packaged software. Some software companies offer free use of tax return software through the Free File Alliance. For information on selecting the filing method or software, logon to www.azdor.gov to find out about the products and the forms supported.

"Last minute filers are urged to e-file in order to get the refund within a few days," recommended Hibbs. "However, if you don't feel comfortable with e-filing, you can file a 2-D bar coded paper return and get that refund within a few weeks." The 2-D bar coding is available from many tax preparers or on Arizona tax forms you can fill out and print at the DOR website.

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